

Sportfishing Regulations 2016-2017

Public Testimony



Fish Program

Presentation Outline

- Process
- Timeline and public involvement
- Written comment – Popular topics
- Public Testimony

Process

- Three Year Schedule,
 - Columbia Basin 2014
 - Puget Sound and Coast freshwater 2015
 - Marine finfish, forage fish and shellfish 2016
- Accept Public Proposals
 - Critical conservation need
 - Recreational opportunity

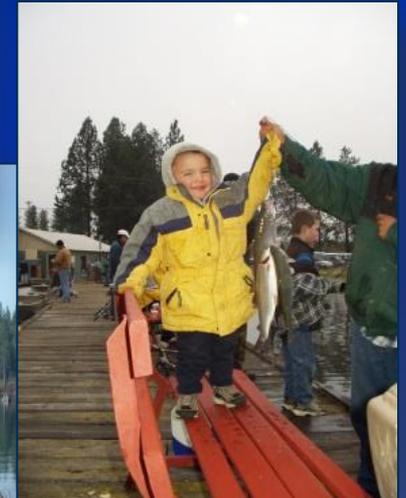
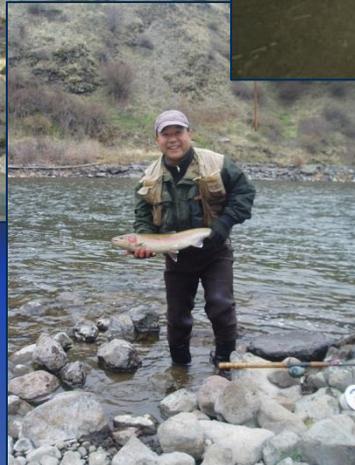
Timeline and Public Involvement

- March Accept Proposals
(email, press release, website)
- July–November North Coast Advisor Group
- August 7–November 4 Public comment on proposals
- August & September Regional public meetings (4)
- September 18–19 Brief Commission
- **November 13–14** **Public Hearing**
- December 11–12 Commission Action
- July 1, 2016 Rules take effect

Written public comment—Popular topics

- Just under 3000 comments received
- Summarize comment on popular proposals
 - Cross Region— Chris Donley
 - Puget Sound— Annette Hoffmann & Steve Thiesfeld
 - Coast— Steve Thiesfeld
 - Lower Columbia warmwater— Chris Donley
- Notebook materials

Cross Region Proposals



Cross Region Proposals

Clarify fishing “fly” definition

- Clarify definition
- Add language about materials that may be used to construct flies



#2

Cross Region Proposals

Clarify fishing “fly” definition (57)

- Pro (65%)
 - Reasonable given prolific use of foam and rubber
 - More consistent with how flies are currently tied
- Con (7%)
 - Waste of time and money
- General Comments (28%)
 - More extensive updating needed
 - Add beads
 - Add “and similar materials” –can’t cover everything
 - Do not allow the use of lead
 - Clarify what is not a fly instead

Cross Region Proposals

Remove internal combustion motors prohibition on small streams

- Remove ICM restrictions where they are not practicable
- Simplify and reduce language in pamphlet



#3

Cross Region Proposals

Remove internal combustion motors prohibition on small streams (28)

- Pro (36%)
 - Support making regulations less convoluted
 - Reduces text in pamphlet
- Con (46%)
 - Use boat length and horse power restrictions instead
- General (18%)
 - Define what is meant by small streams or small flows

Cross Region Proposals

Allow harvest of Grass Carp

- Initial use was to control aquatic vegetation
 - Overstocking and fish longevity resulted in overgrazing
 - Use harvest as a tool to reduce abundance and impacts

Campbell Lake (Skagit Co.)
Lone Lake (Island Co.)



#4

Cross Region Proposals

Allow harvest of Grass Carp (31)

- Pro (81%)
 - Add Duck Lake (Grays Harbor County);
 - Consider mandatory retention;
 - Lone Lake has been overgrazed and some carp thinning should help
- Con (13%, all against adding Duck Lake)
 - Don't add Duck Lake because of recent increase in vegetation
- General (6%)
 - Only adopt if the rest of the fish population is not impacted

Cross Region Proposals

Allow retention of stray hatchery Steelhead

- Allows anglers to keep stray hatchery fish
- Reduces potential for unwanted genetic and competitive interactions with wild steelhead



#7

Cross Region Proposals

Allow retention of stray hatchery Steelhead (55)

- Pro (85%):
 - Win-win for recreational anglers and conservation
 - Responsible thing to do
 - Don't consider as part of the daily limit
 - Don't require to be recorded on the catch record card
- Con (5%)
 - Will lead to abuse and catching of non-stray steelhead
 - Will negatively impact diversity
- General (9%)
 - If don't plant them, won't have a problem

Cross Region Proposals

Provide additional year-round opportunity

- Public is requesting more year-round fishing opportunity
- Ten lakes selected for this change



#9

Lake	County
Anderson	Jefferson
Bay	Pierce
Chehalis River Potholes	Grays Harbor
Deep	Thurston
McIntosh	Thurston
Pattison	Thurston
Summit	Thurston
Tanwax	Pierce
Vogler	Skagit
Ward	Thurston

Cross Region Proposals

Provide additional year-round opportunity (83)

■ Pro (37%):

- Many lakes have algae blooms in summer
- Add Lake Whatcom
- Summit Lake
 - Increased opportunity for Kokanee in early spring
 - More legal fishers will help decrease theft

■ Con (60%): All Summit Lake

- Loss of Fisherman's Breakfast revenue
- Need of an Environmental Impact Statement
- Water quality concerns --drinking water from the lake
- Increased theft to properties
- Clean up and boat launch maintenance

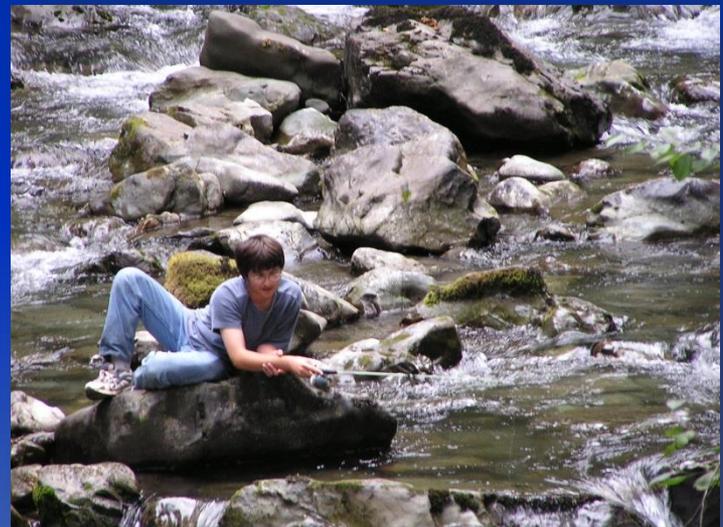
■ General (3%)

- Request for more areas on these water for elderly and disabled to fish successfully

Cross Region Proposals

Increase Trout fishing opportunity in streams

- Add additional angling days to fisheries
- Flett Creek and Leach Creek



#10

Cross Region Proposals

Increase Trout fishing opportunity in streams (28)

- Pro (29%):
 - Native fish have been extirpated for a long time, no negative impacts
 - Support increasing trout fishing opportunities
- Con (39%):
 - Flett Creek cutthroat have greater value to recreational fishers in the Puget Sound salt waters
 - Small streams, cannot take much pressure
 - Need more sanctuaries for fish
- General (32%):
 - Make them fly fishing only or don't open them

Cross Region Proposals



Modify Trout fishing opportunity in select Western Washington streams

- Consistent with stream strategy
- Open portions of streams above anadromous barriers
- Close portions of streams where concern exists for wild salmonids

#11

Cross Region Proposals

Modify Trout fishing opportunity in select Western Washington streams (27)

- Pro (56%):
 - Include Leland Creek (has bass and catfish)
 - Include the North Fork of the Skykomish
 - Include more catch and release opportunities
 - Keep the upper North Fork Sauk and tributaries a quality catch and release fishery
- Con (26%):
 - Counter-productive to native steelhead
 - Keep upper North Fork Sauk and tributaries catch and release
- General (18%):
 - Make all selective gear rules

Cross Region Proposals



Increase selective gear fishing opportunity

- Public input for additional selective gear lake fishing opportunity in Western Washington
- Six lakes in Snohomish County provided for consideration (Chain; Martha (Warm Beach); Ballinger; Flowing; Lost (Devil's); Panther.

#12

Cross Region Proposals

Increase selective gear fishing opportunity (36)

- Pro (72%):
 - Yes for Chain and Martha lakes
 - More opportunities to catch holdover trout
 - 2 fish daily limit encourages anglers to release fish
 - Consider Selective Water endorsement license
- Con (14%):
 - Limits trout fishing
 - Majority of anglers for these lakes fish from banks with bait
- General (14%):
 - Bait fishing from shore is most effective
 - Many locals don't have a boat to troll

Cross Region Proposals

Require mandatory hatchery Steelhead retention



- Reduces potential for unwanted genetic and competitive interactions with wild steelhead
- Applies to streams where hatchery fish are planted and hatchery production goals are being met

#13

Cross Region Proposals

Require mandatory hatchery Steelhead retention (59)

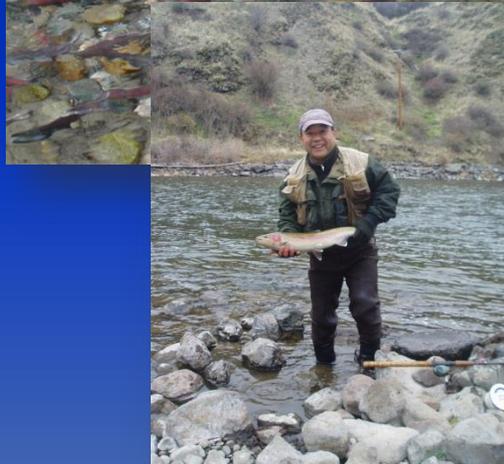
- Pro (75%):
 - Need to see if the wild fish can make it on their own;
 - Maintain a daily limit on harvestable fish;
 - Yes, for stream with recoverable wild steelhead component
- Con (17%):
 - Limits time one can fish, especially for multi-day fishing trips
- General (8%):
 - Make it a statewide rule
 - Problem without an increase or change in steelhead limit
 - Problem without change in rules on wastage

Cross Region Proposals

Questions



Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4



Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4



Pass Lake (Skagit Co.): Allow 2-pole opportunity

- Allows anglers to fish with 2 poles
- Provides additional recreational opportunity

#15

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Pass Lake (Skagit Co.): Allow 2-pole opportunity (34)

- Pro (38%):
 - Will not ruin experience
 - One pole at a time
- Con (50%):
 - Change may upset local experience (effort, quality)
 - Increased hook and release mortality
- General (12%):
 - Don't think it is possible/necessary to fly fish with 2 rods

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4



#16

Rattlesnake Lake (King Co.): Allow Trout harvest

- Currently catch and release
- Public requests rule that allows for harvest of some trout
- Two fish daily limit, 14 inch minimum length

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Rattlesnake Lake (King Co.): Allow Trout harvest (30)

- Pro (47%):
 - Area wants local catch and keep opportunity (families/kids)
 - Various modifications: 1 over 18", 2 over 16"
 - Non native fish should be harvested.
- Con (50%):
 - Only catch & release lake in King County
 - Give the C&R change a chance
 - Will be fished out by summer's end
- General (3%)
 - No comment

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Mill Pond (King Co.): Juvenile waters



- Remove adult exception on Free Fishing Weekend

#25

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Mill Pond (King Co.): Juvenile Only Fishing (15)

- Pro(20%)
 - Agreement with the proposal
- Con (73%):
 - 10 years of senior's derbies impacted (Auburn Parks)
 - Stocking for derbies benefits juveniles
- General (7%)

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Sammamish Lake (King Co.): Remove hook restrictions



- Remove single point barbless hook restrictions
- Changes in Kokanee management make barbless hooks unnecessary

#26

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Sammamish Lake (King Co.): Remove hook restrictions (26)

- Pro(38%)
 - Rule simplification
 - Increase retention of cutthroat predators
- Con (62%):
 - Better to err on the side of continuing conservation efforts
 - Not needed to access cutthroat

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Region 4 Questions



Coast Proposals



North Coast Steelhead

Four major concepts proposed



- Adopt “no fishing from floating device” rules on select streams
- Selective gear rules
- Prohibit harvest of wild steelhead and trout
- Require wild Steelhead harvest tag

#46, 47, 48, 49

North Coast Steelhead

Department engaged ad-hoc North Coast Steelhead Advisory Group



- Diverse group focused solely on North Coast
- Met 6 times since July
- Great compromise by all members
- Developed a comprehensive package of recommendations
- Not all components supported by all members

Advisory Group Package

Consider revising in three years.

1. Prohibit use of internal combustion motors.
2. Remove “Selective Gear Rules” and replace with:
 - a) Barbless hooks during steelhead season.
 - b) Only one hook with up to three points.
3. Limit bait to times and places with hatchery steelhead
4. Release wild steelhead and rainbow trout.
5. Prohibit fishing from floating devices on Hoh River above Morgan’s Crossing.

Advisory Group Package

- Longer term issues
 - ✓ Consider limits on the number of guides that are allowed to operate on the North Coast rivers.
 - ✓ Educate the angling public to encourage proper handling of fish.
 - ✓ Create an “endorsement” for fishing for steelhead in North Coast streams.
 - ✓ Escapement goal level (believe too low)
 - ✓ Productivity
 - ✓ State-Tribal sharing

#46. Adopt “no fishing from floating device” rules on select streams (661)

- Pro (~ 50%):
 - Rivers are under intense pressure and this creates high interaction rate with wild steelhead
 - Include Hoh River because of variable escapement
 - Apply to Humptulips, Satsop, and Wynoochee
 - Promotes more orderly fishery
- Con (~ 50%):
 - Oppose except for Dickey, Salmon (outside Olympic Park and QIN Reservation) and the Snahapish
 - Cuts off large pieces of water from fishing because of unsafe bank conditions
 - ADA fishers unable to fish on the bank

#47. Selective gear rules (462)

- Pro (>90%):
 - Bait kills more fish than any artificial lure
 - Ban wild steelhead fishing entirely
 - Rivers contain the last viable populations of wild steelhead
 - Require single, barbless hooks
- Con (<10%):
 - Proposal is for benefit of a specific user group

48. Prohibit harvest of wild steelhead and trout (634)

- Pro (>90%):
 - Full support, apply rule statewide
 - Preservation of wild Steelhead and Rainbow Trout
 - Assure fishing experience for future generations
 - Time is right.
- Con (<10%):
 - Don't over-regulate these rivers
 - Radical proposal; there are still catchable numbers of wild fish

49. Wild Steelhead harvest tag (111)

- Pro (33%):
 - Agree provided require ALL steelhead anglers purchase a punchcard
 - If wild Steelhead harvest is allowed, then yes
 - Limits number of wild fish poached
- Con (67%):
 - Wild Steelhead should be prohibited
 - Counterproductive and reduces opportunity
 - Enact a statewide Zero Kill policy
 - Limits opportunity to wealthy only

North Coast Steelhead Questions



Lower Columbia Warmwater Proposal



Lower Columbia Warmwater Proposal

Liberalize limits for Bass, Channel Catfish, and Walleye in the Columbia River and tributaries contiguous with Oregon



- Remove harvest limits for Walleye, Bass and Channel Catfish
- Consistent with rest of Columbia River

#50

Lower Columbia Warmwater Proposal

Liberalize limits for Bass, Channel Catfish, and Walleye in the Columbia River and tributaries contiguous with Oregon (35)

- Pro (66%):
 - Invasive species, proposal makes sense;
 - Much invested in salmonid recovery in the Columbia; don't jeopardize with non-native predators.
- Con (34%):
 - Science does not support;
 - Can't blame salmon and steelhead run sizes on warmwater fish;
 - Warmwater fish are important to the economy;
 - Trophy size walleye being diminished.

Lower Columbia Warmwater Proposal

Questions



Timeline

- Sept. 18-19 Brief Commission
- Nov. 4 Written public comment deadline
- **Nov. 13-14** **Public Hearing**
- Dec. 11-12 Rule adoption
- July 1, 2016 Pamphlet —rules take effect

Questions

